

# Latest News

## Funding received from GHCMA-OCOC Grants



The OCOC project area

Landcare Facilitators working within the upper Wannon & Hopkins River catchment area have secured funding for two new projects called

- Protecting Wetlands Together...Precision Ag
- Protecting Wetlands Together...with effective, efficient landscape scale rabbit control.

These projects have been funded as part of GHCMA program called Our Catchment Our Communities Landscape Scale Grants.

The OCOC project is focusing on improving catchment health and climate resilience through activities that support wetland cultural knowledge, health and connectivity in the upper Wannon and Hopkins River catchments.

The OCOC focus area covers the reach of 4 landcare networks, each supported by a landcare facilitator who are working together to support farmers -to consider strategies to protect and manage their wetlands, while demonstrating positive financial impact because of doing so.

To find out more about the GHCMA OCOC program visit <https://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/what-we-do/projects/community-projects/our-catchments-our-communities/> . Read on to find out about each project, and how you can get involved.

## Protecting Wetlands Together – with effective, efficient landscape scale rabbit control

By helping communities to work together on their rabbit populations – across the OCOC area – we will be able to significantly reduce rabbit numbers. We all know that working in this way (involving neighbouring landholders and land managers) provides the most effective, safe and humane means to achieve large-scale rabbit control.

The OCOC funding will provide for effective, efficient rabbit control, by engaging an experienced pest animal control business to undertake the work.



But of course we'll need your help – participants will identify, mark (using flagging tape or similar) and map warrens, and will be present as the contractor is working on their sites. They'll also check the sites soon after control, to record any reinfestations, and notify if follow up action is required. For long-term success, monitoring of the sites need to be maintained and appropriate action undertaken when required, as if this is not done, we all know that the site can be reinfested in just a few years.

We'll be having an introductory evening meeting later in the year, to introduce you to our contractor, and discuss logistics. We'll also have a short site assessment form to fill out – to help the contractor determine control methods and streamline the work. Actual control work will happen in Feb – April 2023.

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If you live within the OCOC region (see map above), have wetlands close by, and have a rabbit population, then please get in touch ASAP. Contact details for each Landcare area are below.

## Protecting Wetlands Together – with Precision Ag



Landcare Facilitators working within the OCOC area have secured funding for a new project called Protecting Wetlands Together...Precision Ag. This project has been funded as part of GHCMA program called Our Catchment Our Communities Landscape Scale Grants.

This project aims to provide clarity on what precision ag strategies and software is currently being used within the OCOC region and inspire a select group of cropping farmers and agronomists to consider precision ag strategies to protect and manage

wetlands. This group will become known as the OCOC Precision Ag Advisory Group. The group will then be provided the opportunity to learn about the latest technology available for precision ag by attending the Agri futures Evoke AG 'Down to Earth' conference in Feb 2023.

This will be followed by a workshop to explore further what precision ag strategies could be used to protect and manage wetlands within a cropping system. A survey is currently being developed to learn about what precision ag strategies are currently being used. This will be circulated mid-October to mid-November 2022. If you are a cropping farmer, it would be very much appreciated if you could complete the survey, and indicate if you would be interested in being involved with the advisory group and attend the conference.

## Contact Details

For further information about the above projects, please contact:

Jileena Cole, BBCAG Facilitator on 0428 341 869 or email [beyondbolac@outlook.com](mailto:beyondbolac@outlook.com)

Ayesha Burdett, UHLMG Facilitator, on 0429 021 500 or email [facilitator@upperhopkins.org.au](mailto:facilitator@upperhopkins.org.au)

Lisa McIntyre, Landcare Facilitator for Panyyabyr, Mirranatwa, Bunnugal, Glenthompson, Mooralla & Bulart Landcare Groups on 0428 749 235 or email [advancel@bigpond.com](mailto:advancel@bigpond.com)

Joel Owins, Landcare Facilitator for Beaufort, Skipton, Lake Goldsmith & Stoneleigh Landcare Groups on 0457 008 895 or email [owins22@hotmail.com](mailto:owins22@hotmail.com)

